

NEWSLETTER

March 2014

The RIIAAA Executive Board would like to thank its members for all its dedication to athletics in the state of Rhode Island. Through your effort, student-athletes are able to attain higher goals and enrich their lives through sport.

We would also like to make you aware of our efforts to find better avenues to communicate with you. Our duty is to represent you and your needs to the best of our ability. Should you have an issue or idea that you feel our membership needs to be aware of please contact one of us. You are also encouraged to attend any Executive Board meeting to voice a concern or just see what we do once a month at the RIIL at RIC.

The following important information, which has come out of discussions from our recent meeting, is to help keep you aware of current issues or concerns in Rhode Island athletics.

1. Athletic Directors serving as either Director or Co-Director of a sport committee are reminded to send meeting report(s) to Ted Quigley, La Salle Academy, tquigley@lasalle-academy.org as soon as possible in order for Jeff Maidment and Mike Traficante to best serve you at Principals' Committee on Athletics meetings, As the RIIAAA Vice-President, Ted would need to report on sport committee resolutions to the RIIAAA Executive Board in advance of the PCOA meetings.
2. The RIIAAA membership extends its appreciation to Kevin M. Bryant, Oregon and Tanner Leggett, Play On! Sports, North Carolina for taking the time to educate us at the recent State Conference, Cape Cod, MA.
3. Kudos to Christopher Hughes, Performance Physical Therapy, for his introduction to his Physical Therapy Group with nine locations throughout RI.
4. Congratulations to Bob Palazzo, Classical, for his induction into the Rhode Island Track Coaches Hall of Fame.
5. Congratulations to Frank Geiselman, Cumberland, for his induction to the RI Interscholastic League Hall of Fame.
6. Committee Reports:
 - a) **Boys' Basketball** met to realign, Consideration to the higher seed hosting thru the semi-finals is a tabled topic. Concern for the lack of Medical coverage at neutral site games was discussed.
 - b) **Baseball**: Dr. Michael Whaley, Burrillville Principal will serve as the Baseball Sports Director.
 - c) **Competition Cheer**: Issues with social media will be part of the agenda for the April 2, 2014 post season meeting.

- d) **Football:** Start dates are published for the fall 2014 season.
- e) **Golf:** Bob Duarte, East Providence, will serve on the sport committee as the Director.
- f) **Indoor Track:** A meeting was held to review the State Championship format.
- g) **Middle School Softball:** The mound is now at 43' to match the High School pitching distance.
- h) **Volleyball:** At least one Athletic Director and two coaches ask the sport committee to consider moving Boys' Volleyball to the fall and Girls' Volleyball to the spring.
- i) **Wrestling:** With 16 teams in Division I and 18 teams Division II, the committee will evaluate who really belongs in Division I. PCOA is looking to drop the Division II State tournament. They are also looking to move the State Championships to URI in the future. The Committee will be meeting after the Wrestling banquet which is on April 8, 2014.
- j) **Hockey** will be meeting soon to realign for 2014-2016.
- k) **Realignment Committee:** 2014 date for fall and winter are available at the RIIL Office.
- l) **Awards Banquet:** At the time of the meeting 274 responses to attend were placed.

7. Principals' Committee on Athletics Report includes:

- a. Welcome, Dr. Michael Whaley, Principal, Burrillville HS to the Baseball sport committee as Co-Director. Also, Mr. Jay Brennan, Principal, Bishop Hendricken as the Co-Director of Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track.
- b. Congratulations to Isaac Lufkin, a student-athlete and kicker of the Freshmen Football team at Classical HS is this year's recipient of the RIIL and NFHS Section I Spirit of Sport Award. Isaac will be recognized for both awards at this year's RIIL High School Hall of Fame banquet in May.
- c. Kudos to North Kingstown HS for hosting the most recent RIIL Student Sport Leaders Workshop. Continued success to the RIIL Student Advisory Board and its pursuit of Excellence in Sports.
- d. There is a new RIIL Transgender Policy. See Article 1, Section 22 of the RIIL Rules and Regulations found at www.riil.org.
- e. Fall Sport Alignments
 - i. Boys' and Girls' Soccer Revisions were approved for 2014-2016. Football preseason start date of August 14, 2014 was approved. See www.riil.org for additional football changes.
- f. Winter Sports: Welcome the Master's Regional Academy to the Boys' and Girls' Basketball program for 2014-2015.
- g. There will be a newly formed RIIL Waiver Committee consisting of 5-7 principals that are not members in standing of the PCOA.
- h. Competition Cheer is being reevaluated as a RIIL sport. There was discussion as to the consideration of Stunt and/or Game Day competition for future RIIL sport sanctioning.
- i. Boys' and Girls' Track fee will be increased by \$25 starting the 2014-2015 school year.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Beth Penkala at: bethpenkala5@gmail.com